

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for pruning search engine indices, the method comprising:
 - 5 receiving a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and
 - automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically deleting is initiated if the notification results in a minimum number of notifications being received for the Web page.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving a search request from the client browser, wherein the search request contains the selected keywords;
 - searching the search engine indices for matches to
 - 20 the selected keywords to form a search; and
 - sending a result of the search to the client browser.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the result includes an indication that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to send the notification to the data processing system.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the search request includes other keywords in addition to the selected keywords.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieval error indicates that the Web page is absent.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is located in one of a search engine or a Web portal.
8. A method in a data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the method comprising:
 - receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and
 - automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of automatically deleting the entry occurs only if the notification causes a number of notifications received for the entry to exceed a threshold value.
10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
 - receiving a search request from the client browser;
 - searching the Web page database for matches to the request to generate a result; and
 - sending the result generated from searching the Web page database to the client browser, wherein the result includes an indicator that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to return the notification.

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the notification is a first type of notification and further comprising: receiving a second type of notification from a client browser that at least one selected search term is absent
5 from the Web page; and

automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the second type of notification.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the method is located
10 in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

13. A method in a data processing system for removing a faulty entry from an index of Web pages, the method comprising:

receiving a result from a server, wherein the result
15 includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;

requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and
sending a notification to the server in response to
20 an error occurring in retrieving the Web page.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the Web page to form a retrieved Web page;
and

sending a notification to the server in response to
25 an absence of selected keywords in the Web page.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the method is performed by a browser.

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

16. A method in a data processing system for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the method comprising:

 sending a request for a Web page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks,

5 wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and
 responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, selectively removing the bookmark.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively removing step comprises:

10 determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

 responsive to the error occurring more than the selected number of times, removing the bookmark from the set of bookmarks.

15 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively removing step comprises:

 determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

20 responsive to the error occurring more than a selected amount of times, generating a user prompt to remove the bookmark.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the selectively removing step further comprises:

25 removing the bookmark in response to a user input to remove the bookmark.

20. A data processing system for pruning search engine indices, the data processing system comprising:

 a bus system;

 a communications unit connected to the bus system;

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of
5 instructions to receive a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and automatically delete the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the
10 notification.

21. A data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
15 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to receive a notification from a client
20 browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and automatically delete an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

22. A data processing system for removing a faulty entry
25 from an index of Web pages, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
30 memory includes as set of instructions; and

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

5 a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to receive a result from a server, wherein
the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a
search request; request a Web page identified by a link
in the links in response to a user input selecting the
link; and send a notification to the server in response
to an error occurring in retrieving the Web page.

10 23. A data processing system for managing a set of
bookmarks for a browser, the data processing system
comprising:

15 a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes as set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to send a request for a Web page in response
to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks in
20 which the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and
selectively remove the bookmark in response to an error
in retrieving the Web page.

24. A data processing system for pruning search engine
indices, the data processing system comprising:

25 receiving means for receiving a notification from a
client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred
for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains
selected keywords; and

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

deleting means for automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.

25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the
5 means of automatically deleting is initiated if the notification results in a minimum number of notifications being received for the Web page.

26. The data processing system of claim 24 wherein the
10 receiving means is a first receiving means further comprising:

second receiving means for receiving a search request from the client browser, wherein the search request contains the selected keywords;

15 searching means for searching the search engine indices for matches to the selected keywords to form a search; and

sending means for sending a result of the search to the client browser.

27. The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the
20 result includes an indication that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to send the notification to the data processing system.

28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the
25 search request includes other keywords in addition to the selected keywords.

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

29. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the retrieval error indicates that the Web page is absent.

30. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the data processing system is located in one of a search
5 engine or a Web portal.

31. A data processing system for managing entries in a Web page database, the data processing system comprising:
receiving means for receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web
10 page; and

deleting means for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

32. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the
15 deleting means is initiated only if the notification causes a number of notifications received for the entry to exceed a threshold value.

33. The data processing system of claim 31 further comprising:
20 receiving means for receiving a search request from the client browser;

searching means for searching the Web page database for matches to the request to generate a result; and

25 sending means for sending the result generated from searching the Web page database to the client browser, wherein the result includes an indicator that the data processing system includes a search engine to cause the client browser to return the notification.

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

34. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the notification is a first type of notification and the receiving means is a first receiving means and further comprising:

- 5 second receiving means for receiving a second type of notification from a client browser that at least one selected search term is absent from the Web page; and
 deleting means for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database
10 in response to receiving the second type of notification.

35. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the receiving means and the deleting means are located in one of a search engine or a Web portal.

36. A data processing system for removing a faulty entry
15 from an index of Web pages, the data processing system comprising:

- receiving means for receiving a result from a server, wherein the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;
20 requesting means for requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and
 sending means for sending a notification to the server in response to an error occurring in retrieving
25 the Web page.

37. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the receiving means is a first receiving means and further comprising:

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

second receiving means for receiving the Web page to form a retrieved Web page; and

5 sending means for sending a notification to the server in response to an absence of selected keywords in the Web page.

38. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the means is performed by a browser.

39. A data processing system for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the data processing system
10 comprising:

sending means for sending a request for a Web page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks, wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and

15 removing means, responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, for selectively removing the bookmark.

40. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the removing means comprises:

20 determining means for determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

removing means, responsive to the error occurring more than the selected number of times, for removing the bookmark from the set of bookmarks.

41. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the
25 removing means comprises:

determining means for determining whether the error has occurred more than a selected number of times; and

Docket No. AUS920010994US1

generating means, responsive to the error occurring more than a selected amount of times, for generating a user prompt to remove the bookmark.

42. The data processing system of claim 41, wherein the
5 removing means further comprises:

removing means for removing the bookmark in response to a user input to remove the bookmark.

43. A computer program product in a computer readable
10 medium for pruning search engine indices, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a notification from a client browser that a Web page retrieval error occurred for a Web page or that the Web page no longer contains selected keywords; and

15 second instructions for automatically deleting the Web page from the search engine indices in response to receiving the notification.

44. A computer program product in a computer readable
20 medium for managing entries in a Web page database, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a notification from a client browser that a retrieval error occurred for a Web page; and

25 second instructions for automatically deleting an entry associated with the Web page from the Web page database in response to receiving the notification.

45. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for removing a faulty entry from an index of Web

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Docket No. AUS920010994US1

pages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a result from a server, wherein the result includes links to Web pages corresponding to a search request;

5 second instructions for requesting a Web page identified by a link in the links in response to a user input selecting the link; and

third instructions for sending a notification to the server in response to an error occurring in retrieving
10 the Web page.

46. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a set of bookmarks for a browser, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for sending a request for a Web
15 page in response to a selection of a bookmark from the set of bookmarks, wherein the bookmark is associated with the Web page; and

second instructions, responsive to an error in retrieving the Web page, for selectively removing the
20 bookmark.

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